On the extension of the Metropolitan Buildings Act, Mr. Allen was elected District Surveyor for Rotherhithe and Hatcham; and on the occasion of a recent vacancy, he succeeded to the appointment of surveyor to the Haberdashers' Company.

His professional brethren, his clients, and even those to whom he was opposed, on occasions where conflicting interests were at issue, will bear testimony to the honourable manner in which he conducted himself, and to the zeal which he manifested at all times for the business he was engaged in, and likewise for his anxiety to support the character of the profession to which he belonged. Mr. Allen was admitted a few months since, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

J. J. S.

CHELSEA.

This interesting locality, which was fast falling into decay, has recently awakened into new life: a fresh spirit has been infused, and is leading to efforts which cannot fail to have a good result. The success of a literary and scientific institution, "The West London," established there a year ago, is one of the satisfactory evidences that may be adduced. At the closing meeting of the first session, a short time since, Mr. Francis Lloyd, a vice-president, who was in the chair, delivered a more than usually interesting address on its progress and prospects, and made an appeal to the wealth and intelligence of the neighbourhood for sympathy and support. We quote a portion of the address relating to the past and future of the place.

"Chelsea," said the speaker, "is in my mind associated with giants of literature. Here, on the banks of our noble river, were the Tullian villas of scholars and philosophers. Here—

> 'Where glides the silver Thames along,
> His silent winding way,'

lived Sir Thomas More. Here Erasmus visited him, and of whose visit to the domestic circle of the great chancellor he has left so charming an account, albeit rather hard upon our pretensions to classical literature, which, he says, 'Vix tenuis odor in Anglium demigraret.' His house was the resort of the most ingenious of that age. There would that brutal and unaccountable monarch, Henry VIII., visit and dine with him; and even used, as Roper informs us, to ascend with him to the house-top, to observe the stars and discourse of astronomy. 'A house,' says Erasmus, 'in which every one studies the liberal sciences; where the principal care is virtue and piety; where idleness never appears; where intemperate language is never heard; where irregularity and disorder are proscribed by the mere force of kindness and courtesy; where every one performs his duty, and yet all are so cheerful, as if mirth were their only employment. Such a house ought rather to be called a practical school of the Christian religion.' Sir Hans Sloane was afterwards the possessor of the same house. He, you know, was a very learned and indefatigable pioneer in science. He succeeded Newton in the chair of the Royal Society, and was president of the College of Physicians, to whom he presented the ground of the garden of the Apothecaries' Company, adjoining the Military Hospital. In the hamlet of Little Chelsea resided Sir Bulstrode Whitelock, Mr. Pym, the celebrated member of the Long Parliament, Bishop Fowler, Sir Robert Walpole, Sir Richard Steele, Dr. Meade, Addison, John Locke, Dr. Smollett; and Dr. Swift resided, as he tells us, in his letter to Stella, for some time in Chelsea. Queen Elizabeth received her education at a palace the site of Cheyne-walk. Our president (the Earl of Cadogan) derives his descent and valuable estates in Chelsea (I believe most of us are his tenants) from Sir Hans Sloane; and I doubt not, with the gallantry and liberality that distinguish his profession (the navy), will lend a helping hand to our institution, which his lordship may, I think, be proud to see rising on his property, and certainly not decreasing its value.

The changes witnessed in the face of the country, within the time of two not very old men, are more than likely to be surpassed during the same future period; and this institution may influence the nature of that progress to a great degree. On this very spot where we now assemble (a handsome street surrounded for miles by houses), not longer since than this period, was the Earl of Peterborough stopped by highwaymen, in what was then a narrow lane; and the robbers, being watched by the soldiers on guard at the gate of the college, were fired at from behind the hedge. One of the highwaymen was a student in the Temple, named Brown, whom Mr. Vernon, the Secretary of State, in a letter to the Duke of Shrewsbury, says, 'a friend of his (Sir John Talbot) knew well; and his father, losing his estate, Mr. Brown lived by play, sharping, and a little on the highway.' You may see this anecdote and others, portraying the manners, modes of thought, and occupations of society, from the Revolution of 1688 to the death of George II., in a very interesting work, now on our shelves, by Mr. Jesse. I think the part we are attempting to play, in carrying onward the great work of social development, cannot be wrong, if it only causes the possibility to be more remote of our parish being again favoured by gentlemen of the Temple for such recreation."

"We are at this time peculiarly fortunate in having a nobleman who has testified an interest in our young institution, chief commissioner of crown lands; his interest, in what all admit will prove conducive to the intellectual advancement of Chelsea, convinces us that the improvements I have alluded to for its ornament, as well as for its health, will be carried out to the fullest extent permitted by the legislature. Let Lord Morpeth carry out the plans he has at heart, and let the legislature support them, and no minister will be remembered with more gratitude to latest posterity. May we live to see this terrace, not taken from useful or profitable occupation, but borrowed from the unwholesome mud shoals of the Thames, planted with rows of fair elms, a broad carriage-way in the midst, and a water-side causeway for pedestrians, similar to the *quais* on each bank of the Seine, in Paris,—a continuation of our own admired Cheyne-walk, in fact, to Westminster-bridge; and mansions, spacious warehouses, and structures of all kinds, worthy of such a river as the Thames, will grow up, as if by enchantment, upon its margin. The huddled sheds and tumble-down tenements, that now shut us from the sight of it, would vanish. Only think what a beautiful sight would be a Cheyne-walk or a Temple-garden, miles in length, opening an avenue of fresh air and a new element of health to the entire population of this vast metropolis, as much a blessing as a beauty! Imagine how much longer we should live, how much more healthy, and, therefore, how much more happy, we should be, if, when wearied with confinement, enfeebled by sickness, or oppressed by toil, we could enjoy in its plentitude the health and pleasure of living by the river side. We have ruthlessly defaced the banks of the king of English rivers:—

> 'Strange that where Nature loves to trace,
> As if for gods, a dwelling-place,
> There man, enamoured of distress,
> Should mar it into wilderness.'

However, an opportunity for retribution to Father Thames appears at hand, and for redeeming our characters as marrers of Nature for Mammon. The science of sanitary economy is worthy of your consideration, and I trust we shall hear some lectures on the subject, and timely suggestions tendered to the commissioners just appointed under our new local Act, for rendering innoxious the principal gas generated by sewage matter—making the matter itself profitable; considerations highly useful to us in Chelsea, where streets and squares are rapidly covering every yard of ground. Not fifty years ago, for the greater part,

> 'Whereupon it stands,
> The vacant winds did whistle, and the laughing sunshine
> Sported in wild freedom.'"

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

A new town-hall and market-house are to be built at Brentford, under the Small Debt Act provision for the erection of county courts in county towns.——The extension of the fortifications at Blockhouse, Portsmouth, and the artillery barracks is now nearly completed; and tenders will shortly be sent in for the erection of the battery and barracks at Point.——At a special meeting of the Cowes Commissioners on Monday week, an attempt to secure a supply of water to scour the existing sewers, and to reserve the water in the public highways for the exclusive supply of the poor, was resisted by seven of the Water Company's directors, against seven other commissioners, the chairman, one of the seven directors, giving his casting vote against the proposal. A protest was made against such voting by interested parties as contrary to the local Act. The commissioners are determined on having the poor supplied gratuitously, and the general consumers at a reasonable rate. They are about to engage an engineer to furnish plans for effectually sewering the town.——The second graving dock at Southampton is now excavated and its size marked out. A portion only of the dock wharf will require to be taken down for the entrance, which will always be at high-water only. The saving in construction, compared with the first, will be estimated, says the *Hampshire Advertiser*, when we state that the coffer-dam alone cost 10,000*l.*! The entrance to the new graving dock will not require one.——A correspondent of the *Times* proposes that the 66,000 acres of the New Forest, which cost more than they yield by 1,469*l.* a year, and have yielded no timber for public purposes for eight years, should be cut down, inclosed, and cultivated, so as to yield an annual revenue of 30,000*l.* in place of 9,000*l.* A "Resident Foreigner," however, in response, hopes the *Times* will raise its potent voice to deprecate the act of vandalism proposed; for should such utilitarian principles gain ground amongst this money-loving generation, woe to Kensington, Kew gardens, Blenheim,—all the loveliest spots in England! What would the Chamber of Deputies think, he asks, of a project to destroy the forest of Fontainebleau or Compiègne?——Our appeal, and that of the *Bridgewater Times*, on behalf of the church of St. Mary, Bridgewater, has at length been responded to so far as regards the restoration of decayed stonework, the pointing of the walls after removal of the old plaster, the putting on of a new slate roof, &c. "It is not a little curious, in connection with this matter," says the *Bridgewater Times*, "to note the difference between the present time and the palmy days of jobbing, in what was proverbially called 'churchwork.' The contract for removing and clearing away the plaster from the tower and walls was undertaken the other day for the sum of 8*l.*, and the pointing and making good the walls for somewhere about 200*l.* For performing the same work, some years since, it cost the parish nearly 1,280*l.* Glorious old times these for jobbing and corruption! No wonder that there are many men who look back upon them with regret. They'll never look upon their like again."——The re-erection of the monument, near Carmarthen, in memory of the gallant deeds of General Sir Thomas Picton, is progressing rapidly.——On Thursday week Clydach new church was consecrated by the Bishop of St. David's.——The present proprietor of Beeston Castle, Cheshire, is in the act of rebuilding this ancient structure. In *Nixon's Cheshire Prophecies*, it is stated that "Beeston Castle shall not be rebuilt so long as a *king* remains on the throne of England."——St. Cuthbert's Church, Bedford, is to be consecrated on 8th instant.——A curious relic of antiquity was lately discovered at Silchester, the well-known Roman station. It is a small bronze eagle of elaborate workmanship, the plumage distinctly defined, but the displayed wings gone; from all appearance, it headed a staff or wand.——The *Buxton Herald* complains of a super-refined delicacy which is actively at work in the 'mutilation' of church water-spouts, &c., at Buxton, and is in dread of the spread of those Quixotic and indelicate she-Yankee notions which lead to war against the naked legs of chairs and tables, tongs and pokers. Modesty and purity of thought and fancy are the best fig-leaves

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the experience, and pa... gineers. In the meantime, circulars have been issued to all the railway companies in the United Kingdom, requesting them to make *a return of all the cast-iron bridges* they have on their lines, their dimensions, and other particulars; they are also recommended, in case there are the slightest doubts of the stability of any bridge, at once to give it additional

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